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Birds collected at Laredo, Texas, in 1866 and 1867." By Dr. H. B. Butcher.

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*May 12th.*

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Thirty-six members present.

The following were presented for publication: "Description of Four new species of Exotic Unionidæ," and "Description of Twenty-six new species of Melanidæ of the United States." By Isaac Lea, LL.D.

"Monœcism in *Luzula campestris*," and "Variations in *Epigea repens*." By Thos. Meehan.

Prof. Edw. D. Cope defined the characters of a new genus of Cheloniidæ, which represented the modern marine turtles in the Cretaceous green sand of New Jersey. It differed in the considerably greater co-ossification of the disc and marginal bones posteriorly and anteriorly. The anterior rib is attached to one marginal in advance of that to which it is connected in *Chelone*. He called it *Ostrœopygis*, and exhibited a specimen of the type species—*O. emarginatus* Cope—of which about half the carapace and plastron were preserved, and which indicated an animal of about the size of the green turtle. It was presented to the Academy by Dr. Samuel Ashhurst.

Prof. Cope stated that he was more or less acquainted with four species of the genus: *O. sopitus* (*Chelone* Leidy), *O. chelydrinus* Cope, and *O. repandus* Cope, all of the same or larger size than the type.

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*May 19th.*

MR. VAUX, Vice-President, in the Chair.

Twenty-nine members present.

Prof. Cope called attention of the Academy to the rarity of Ophidian remains, and to the fact that none had been discovered in North America up to the present time. He then exhibited two vertebræ of a serpent of or near the family of the Boas, from the green sand of Squankum, Monmouth Co., N. J., which had been discovered by Dr. Knieskern.

Peculiar interest attached to these specimens, from the fact that they came from a bed which has recently been stated, by Conrad, to be an equivalent of the older Eocene or London clay of the Thames valley. They confirm this identification exactly, since they belong to Owen's genus *Palæophis*, which is characteristic of those beds in England. They indicate a species intermediate between the two larger described by Prof. Owen, and of some fifteen feet in length. It was associated with remains of crocodiles, sting-rays and saw-fishes, and was named, from its geographical and geological location, *PALÆOPHIS LITTORALIS* Cope.

The type specimens belong to the Geological Survey of New Jersey, under Prof. George Cook, and were lent by him for description.

Dr. Hayden read a letter from Prof. Leo Lesquereux, identifying the fossil plants of the coal formation of the south-west, as follows:

"I was unwell when your boxes of fossil plants arrived, and was not able to examine the specimens before now.

1868.]